

# Spoken



The Kennedy Center, Inc.

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Martin D. Schwartz  
President and CEO

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Good day to our Co-Chairmen Senator Anthony Musto and Representative Ed Jutila, the Government Administration, Elections Committee, and all here in attendance. My name is Bill Gill, and I am the Marketing Director for The Kennedy Center in Trumbull. My main responsibility is securing work for those with developmental disabilities.

Our agency has supported Connecticut citizens with varying disabilities for over 60 years. We could not have accomplished what we have without solid community support and that of our State! The last five years have been extremely difficult financially for the State, businesses in the State, and all non-profits who serve over 500,000 individuals with disabilities and special needs.

Two very important programs in support of people with disabilities are the Qualified Partnership Pilot Program and the Preferred Purchasing Program. Because of these programs, The Kennedy Center had over 100 consumers with janitorial jobs in 2012, earning nearly \$340,000 while logging an astounding 53,000 hours of work time. Remarkable!

The Kennedy Center thanks the Committee in advance for making S.B. No. 761 permanent. We ask for your continued support and applaud you for your foresight in allowing people with disabilities a level playing field to work, earn and achieve.

Thank you.